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delphia Transcripts". Of other manuscript-material his book shows no certain knowledge. He has analyzed in an admirable manner difficult financial, commercial and industrial situations, has written probably the ablest account of French policy that we have, and has dealt satisfactorily with the character and careers of such men as Dongan, Andros, Shirley and Nicholson. We doubt, however, if he really approves of any of the British representatives in America, and even when trying to be fair he seems to be pleased if the balance can be made to tilt in favor of the colonies. Apart from the first four chapters, where the treatment seems perfunctory and the originality less marked, the material has been handled with firmness and independence and space has been distributed with an admirable disregard for precedents. It requires courage to dismiss the whole history of Oglethorpe and Georgia in less than two and a half pages. The work is elaborately annotated with footnotes and references, while bibliographical notes at the end of each chapter furnish the author with a further opportunity for expressions of opinions. The reproductions of contemporary maps are interesting, though in some instances they are on too small a scale and too faint to be of much value. The general map at the end, prepared especially for this volume and illustrating the territorial expansion of the colonies, is excellent. Professor Channing has set so high a standard of accuracy in his work that it is surprising to find a few errors of rather an unexpected character. He speaks of Methodists in 1671 (p. 16), of Professor Williston Walker as still at the Hartford Theological Seminary (p. 437), and twice of a "State Paper Office" in London (pp. 62, 477). He seems to take Berkeley's well-known statement about learning and printing in Virginia as if it were literally true, and he certainly implies that there were no executions for witchcraft in the colonies before 1688 (pp. 83, 458-459). His belief that the Bishop of London's jurisdiction originated in the bishop's membership in the Virginia Council under James I. seems to us wholly improbable, since the bishop's jurisdiction did not arise until after the Restoration.

We may not agree with all that Professor Channing has said or be entirely satisfied with his way of treating the history of this period, but we do acknowledge that he has produced a book of first importance for the study of the neglected period and in so doing has removed a reproach hitherto cast upon historical scholarship in America.

*The Writings of Samuel Adams.* Collected and edited by HARRY ALONZO CUSHING. Volume IV., 1778-1802. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1908. Pp. xvii, 431.)

WITH this volume the series of Adams's writings is complete. We now know what is to be known of the arch-conspirator and revolutionist. One can be reasonably sure that there is nothing of importance omitted from these volumes, because the editor has been industrious in hunting

material, and also because they contain so much that is of slight consequence. Surely no intelligent editor would give us some of the things we find here, if the space were needed for anything else. It must be confessed that the series is rather disappointing; we have gained so little additional knowledge about a man who for some twenty years was a great influence in American history. Justice to the editor and to the volumes compels one to say, however, that this disappointment arose from our expecting too much, from an eager anticipation of the sight of materials that apparently do not exist. We are thankful especially for the materials in the first two volumes without which it is difficult or impossible to understand the preliminaries of the Revolution.

The present volume covers the period from January, 1778, to the end, the first letter being to Richard Henry Lee, the last an eminently sane and wholesome epistle to Tom Paine. Thus it will be seen that we have here the correspondence of twenty-four years besides no small number of public papers. The letters during the war are to a surprising extent commonplace or devoid of real helpfulness. If Adams had one passion left him after his devoted attention to liberty and his wooing of that frigid spinster, civic virtue, whose beauties and worth he ceased not to proclaim, he wasted it on the Lees, especially on Arthur. His confidence in this restless son of Virginia, whom he appeared implicitly to have trusted long before he had ever looked into his face, is in truth one of the striking facts of the volume, meaning a good deal to the student of Revolutionary politics. On the whole, as one reads, one is impressed more and more with the feeling that he has come upon the letters of a very substantial second-rate man. How difficult it would be to find letters covering a period of twenty years written by Washington, Jefferson, Franklin or Madison so free from anything like real inspiration or genius!

There are a few telling letters in the period of the Confederation, one or two of which tell the old story that in the days before Shays's Rebellion, if there were poverty and misfortune, imprisonment for debt, and commercial depression, there were also extravagance and prodigal expenditure. "Our merchants", Adams writes, in July, 1785, "are complaining bitterly that Great Britain is ruining their Trade, and there is great Reason to complain, but I think much greater, to complain of too many of the Citizens thro' the Common wealth who are imitating the Britons in every idle Amusement and expensive Foppery which it is in their power to invent for. the Destruction of a young Country. Can our people expect to indulge themselves in the unbounded Use of every unmeaning and fantastick Extravagance because they would follow the Lead of Europeans, and not spend all their Money? You would be surprizd to see the Equipage, the Furniture and expensive Living of too many, the Pride and Vanity of Dress which pervades thro every Class, confounding every Distinction between the Poor and the Rich and evincing the want both of Example and Oeconomy." This is

interesting testimony not only concerning the industrial conditions during or immediately preceding the days of gloom, but also concerning the influence of the Revolution in erasing distinctions. The most significant letter in this period is the well-known one to Richard Henry Lee, in which Adams says after reading the Constitution, "I confess as I enter the Building I stumble at the Threshold." Several letters, written in the last decade of the century, interestingly disclose at once his old devotion to the Union and his essential Republican principles, which enable him to write to Jefferson in April in 1801 that he congratulated the country "on the arrival of the day of Glory which has called *you* to the first office in the administration of our Federal Government".

One the whole the collection will be useful. I am not sure that all the really good matter could not have been put in two-thirds of the space, but historical students are not apt to find fault with completeness.

*John C. Calhoun.* By GAILLARD HUNT. [American Crisis Biographies.] (Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs and Company. 1908. Pp. 335.)

JUDGED by the requirements of the series in which it appears Mr. Hunt's *Calhoun* must be pronounced highly successful. It shows a mellow scholarship on constitutional questions, a general knowledge of social and political conditions in the South, and a clear style controlled by a mild and even temper. Not especially profound nor original, except in minor matters, it avoids ponderous and commonplace historical judgments, and has a peculiarly instructive and interesting freshness.

Although it can hardly be called a complete biography, it is the first serious effort to describe the plain man Calhoun as well as his doctrines. In previous biographies and often in essays Calhoun has usually taken on some of the attributes of a god or of a monster, according to the writer's prejudice, mental condition or lack of information. The publication of Calhoun's correspondence nearly ten years ago made it possible to change all that. In fact and in Mr. Hunt's narrative Calhoun the nationalist and Calhoun the sectionalist are very natural products of very different political conditions. The Calhoun prior to 1820 and the Calhoun subsequent to 1830 were of course wholly inconsistent. But such inconsistencies are the rule wherever the circumstances so change as to make a corresponding change of attitude on the part of a public man a prerequisite of his continued supremacy. It is these facts that are important; and Mr. Hunt has made them very clear without elaborate argument or much concern about the reader's judgment.

Since Houston's *Critical Study of Nullification*—one of the most effective monographs in American history—there have been no mysteries about the South Carolina of that time. But Mr. Hunt has retold the story in a refreshing manner and has made contributions and correc-